

Message Text

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02951 141405Z

70

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 /087 W

----- 011260

R 141311Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6674

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2951

E.O.1165: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRAN, IS

SUBJECT: AIRLINE WORKERS STRIKE MAY 13; MARITIME

WORKERS THREATEN TO CLOSE PORTS

REF: TEL AVIV 2860

1. EL AL EMPLOYEES(EXCEPT AIR CREWS) AND ISRAELI EMPLOYEES OF ALL FOREIGN CARRIERS BEGAN 23 HOUR STRIKE AT 01:00 MAY 14 IN PROTEST AGAINST INCREASE IN TRAVEL TAX IMPOSED ON FREE TICKETS WHICH AIRLINES PROVIDE EMPLOYEES, ONLY SIWSSAIR, WHICH EMPLOYS ALL SWISS NATIONALS, NOT AFFECTED.

2. MEANWHILE PRESS REPORTS THAT MARINE OFFICERS UNION IS THREATENING TO STRIKE ALL ISRAELI PORTS FOR ONE DAY NEXT WEEK.

3. AIRLINE STRIKE STAGED DESPITE LAST MINUTE APPEALS OF EL AL AMANGEMENT AND HISTADRUT, AS WELL AS ORDER BY LABOR COURT, ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM EL AL, NOT TO DISRUPT AIRLINE OPERATIONS. STRIKE IS OVER RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT, ALTHOUGH INTENT OF UNIONS, ACCORDING TO MOST OBERSRVERS, IS TO SERVE NOTICE OF FURTHER PROTEST SHOULD GOVERNMENT MAKE VALUE OF FREE TICKETS TAXABLE INCOME AS RECOMMENDED BY BEN SHACHAR COMMITTEE.

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 02951 141405Z

4. CURRENT TRVEL TAX, PROMULAGAED UNDER NOVEMBER 1974 EMERGENCY PROGRAM, IS IL 750 PLUS 15 PERCENT OF VALUE OF TICKET. EXEMPTION FROM TRAVEL TAX WAS WITHDRAWN FROM MAY GROUPS (INCLUDING U.S. EXCHANGE GRANTEEES). TAX FOR

AIRLINE EMPLOYEES WAS RAISED FROM IL 120 PLUS ONE PERCENT OF TICKET VALUE TO IL 200 PLUS THREE PERCENT OF TICKET VALUE. KNESSET FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSEQUENTLY RASIED TAX TO IL 270 PLUS FIVE PERCENT OF VALUE OF TICKET. TRANSPORT MINISTER YAACOBI IN KNESSET MAY 13 STATED THAT CABINET ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW DECISION OF KNESSET FINANCE COMMITTEE.

5. THREATENED STRIKE OF MARITIME OFFICES, WHICH COULD PARALYZE PORT OPERATIONS, IS IN PROTEST AGAINST ISRAELI COMPANIES WHICH OPERATE FOREIGN FLAG SHIPS WITH FOREIGN SEAMEN.UNION ALSO DEMANDING THAT MORE CITRUS FRUITS BE CARRIED IN ISRAELI SHIPS.

6. UNION, AS REPORTED IN PRESS, HAS SPECIFICIALLY POINTED TO U.S. LAKE AND TRADE SHIPPING COMPANY WHICH IT CLAIMS IS ACTUALLY RUN BY FORMER ZIM OFFICIAL, AND AARON ROSENFELD SHIPPING AGENCY, WHICH REPORTEDLY, HAS GOVERNMENT CONTRACT, TO SHIP 12 PERCENT OF ISRAEL'S GRAIN IMPORTS. UNION CHARGES THAT ROSENFELD IS USING JAPANESE SHIPS FOR THE JOBS,WHILE ISRAELI SHIPS HAVE BEEN LAID OFF, THUS CAUSING UNEMPLOYMENT.
VELIOTES

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